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ABSTRACT

Brief, individual program descriptions from member organizations of the National Federation for the Improvement of Rural Education (NFIRE) constitute the sum of this report on NFIRE developments. Each report includes: the name of the organization; the name of a contact person; an address; an organizational classification; a descriptive note on the general nature of the work performed by the organization in rural education; and the significant highlights or major focus of organizational activities for 1974-75. Included are individual reports from the following: (1) Geneseo Migrant Center; (2) Abt Associates; (3) Western States Small Schools Project; (4) Oregon Small Schools Association; (5) Educational Resources Information Center/Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools; (6) Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Rural Education Program. Also included in this report is a NFIRE membership list (40 organizations and 3 individuals). (JC)

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# WHAT NFIRE MEMBERS ARE DOING

A report to the 1975 Board of Directors
October 19, 1975
San Antonio, Texas

Compiled by
Rowan C. Stutz, Executive Director

From reports submitted by members of the NFIRE Board of Managers

RC009805

## Introduction

The aggregate of rural educational services offered by the members of the National Federation for the Improvement of Rural Education represents a significant effort toward the improvement of learning opportunities for rural students. Hopefully, by sharing information about each other's work each member organization will increase its commitment to the cause of rural educational development and raise its vision of the critical needs of rural schools and of its own potential to meet these needs.

These are challenging and exciting times. Rural America is changing. After nine decades of out migration and its devastating effects upon the quality of rural life, the trend has reversed itself. People are moving out of the cities to the country. Postponed dreams of many people for the simple "old fashioned" values of homelife, small towns and the out-of-doors are being brought to pass. More and more rural high school graduates are staying home to seek their fortunes. Industries are moving out into the country and into smaller cities and towns. The resultant new ruralism holds both a threat and a promise for rural America. The human and financial resources for rural development will increase. However, unless rural growth is planned and managed by those who are affected by these changes--the people who live there--the qualities of life being sought in the country will be but a pipedream, destroyed by the very movement that sought to enjoy them.

Hopefully, NFIRE members in all parts of the country will respond to the challenge with vigor and imagination.

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: Geneseo Migrant Center

Name of Representative: Gloria Mattera

Address: State University College, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454

Type of Organization: Educational Service Center

General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

The Geneseo Migrant Center conducts a variety of programs and services for migrant and rural farm families. During the summer this encompasses programs for infants through adults, twelve (12) hours a day, in the evening and on weekends. College course work and training are offered for in-service, pre-service and aides.

The year-round activities include the tutoring of migrants and rural children in schools within a thirty-mile radius of Geneseo. Each child receives an hour of tutoring a day in reading and math. Other services include a lending library of teacher-made and commercial materials, articles, pamphlets and books on rural and migrant education, as well as other areas of need such as health, social services, labor, etc.

Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

As one of 81 projects selected nationwide for dissemination, the Center's Project C.H.I.L.D. (Comprehensive Help for Individual Learning Differences) was exhibited at two major education fairs--one in New Orleans in May, and the other in St. Louis in March.

The Center's major focus has been and continues to be the rendering of as much direct and indirect service to migrant farmworkers and rural families as possible.

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: Abt Associates, Inc.

Name of Representative: Dr. Michael B. Kane

Address: 55 Wheeler St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Type of Organization: Applied Social Research Company

General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

Since 1972, Abt Associates has been the principal contractor for the summative evaluation and documentation of the Experimental Schools Program for Small Schools Serving Rural Areas. Sponsored by the National Institute of Education, the Experimental Schools program seeks to examine the ability of rural school districts to adapt to a changing sociocultural environment. Five-year funding commitments have been made by NIE/ES to ten geographically dispersed school districts to plan and implement holistic educational change. A staff of 20 professional educators, sociologists, social psychologists, and anthropologists employed by Abt Associates is carrying out a series of site-specific and cross-site studies of the 10 school districts, 52 schools, 880 educators, and 18,200 pupils affected by the experiment. Data gathered through a unique combination of demographic survey and case-study techniques are being transformed into an efficient data base and are being analyzed by a diverse set of state-of-the-art analytic procedures to answer the numerous educational and policy questions that the Experimental Schools program raises. In all this work, Abt Associates has had the advice and cooperation of a number of leading national experts in relevant substantive and methodological fields.

Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

During 1974-75, data collection and analysis activities will continue with both the site-specific and cross-site studies. In addition the project will begin development of a series of reports on its findings which will be targeted to a variety of audiences including teachers, administrators, parents and community members, and federal and state level policy makers.

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: Western States Small Schools Project

Name of Representative: Herb Steffens

Address: Nevada Dept. of Ed., 400 W. King, Carson City, Nevada 89710

Type of Organization: Multi-state Consortium

General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

During the period from 1962-1974 the Western States Small Schools Project, a consortium of five state educational agencies (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah) was engaged in a variety of projects designed to improve education in remote-rural schools. Initially each state had separate projects and later the organization identified problems common to the member states, designed solution strategies, prepared proposals for funding them, and operated multi-state projects. Inservice training of rural school personnel and the provision of consultative services were the primary mode of operation. Most recent projects dealt with Career Education and Differentiated Staffing. Numerous project publications are now in the ERIC system.

Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

WSSSP has been almost inactive during 1974-75 when project funds ran out. Some work was done on final reports of latest projects and this work is still in progress. Major effort of the year was to reactivate the organization, with a broader mission, and a state supported rather than foundation or federally supported. Proposals for this were developed and two regional meetings of potentially interested states were held. Unfortunately, a sufficient number of states were not able to pay the registration fee. It is hoped that during the coming year the organization can become reactivated.

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: Oregon Small Schools Association

Name of Representative: Donald F. Miller, Executive Secretary

Address: 942 Lancaster Drive, NE, Salem, OR 97310

Type of Organization: Nonprofit Corporation

General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

The Oregon Small Schools Association is organized exclusively for educational purposes to provide inservice training and information sharing among the elementary and secondary schools in Oregon which are members of the association. Therefore, it holds these specific purposes:

1. To help member schools/districts identify and meet their educational goals;
2. To improve communication among member schools, Oregon Department of Education, and other educational agencies; and
3. To coordinate educational programs and activities and to encourage sharing of educational services, resources and information among member schools/districts of the association.

Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

The 1975 Small Schools Summer Institute, "Pacesetter for Small Schools," held June 16-20, 1975, on the Willamette University Campus in Salem. This was the tenth annual Small Schools Summer Institute, but the first one sponsored by this newly incorporated association. (Prior workshops were sponsored by Title III, ESEA funds.) One hundred ninety-one educators representing more than eighty school districts were enrolled.

The workshop offered a potpourri of presentations to keep participants in pace with the curriculum developments, state priorities, and teaching strategies. Representatives from nationally validated Title III projects, exemplary programs in Oregon, Oregon College of Education, and the State Department of Education made presentations and served as resource people during the week. Three hours of University of Oregon graduate credit was offered those participants who signed contracts to work individually or as school teams on worthwhile projects. Evaluations of the Institute submitted by participants at Friday's closing session indicated that the 1975 Institute was a success and it was deemed the preferred activity for Oregon Small Schools Association sponsorship. So, there will be a summer institute in 1976, June 14-18, at Willamette University, Salem.

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER
Clearinghouse on Rural Ed. & Small Schools

Name of Representative: Everett D. Edington

Address: Box 3 AP, New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

Type of Organization: Resources Dissemination

General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools is one unit of the network of clearinghouses in the decentralized ERIC system. ERIC/CRESS is responsible for acquiring, indexing, abstracting and disseminating information related to all aspects of education of American Indians, Mexican Americans, migrants, as well as outdoor education, education in small schools, and rural areas.

Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

1. Submission of 594 documents into Resources In Education.
2. Indexing of 340 articles in Current Index to Journals in Education.
3. Answering over 3,500 requests for information.
4. Publication of the following:

"American Indian Education, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) Supplement #5"

"Rural Education--Partners for Accountability" by Marjorie B. White

"Small Rural Schools Can Have Adequate Curriculums" by Martha Loustaunau

"Outdoor Education, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) Supplement #4"

"Migrant Education, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) ERIC/CRESS Supplement #5"

"Indian Educational Leadership: A Conference Report" University Council on Education Administration

"A Selected Bibliography on Mexican American and Native American Bilingual Education in the Southwest" by Stephen Cohir, Rosa Montes, Brad Jeffries

"The Chicano Literary World - 1974" compiled by Felipe Ortego and David Conde

"Small Schools, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) ERIC/CRESS Supplement #1"

"American Indian Education, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) ERIC/CRESS Supplement #6"

"Mexican American Education, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts) ERIC/CRESS Supplement #5"

"Higher Education for Mexican Americans, A Selected Bibliography (with ERIC Abstracts)"

NFIRE Members Written Report

1975

Name of Member Organization: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Rural Education Program

Name of Representative: Ray Jongeward

Address: 710 S.W. Second Avenue, Portland, OR 97204

Type of Organization: Educational Research & Development Laboratory

## General Nature of the Work of this Organization in Rural Education:

The Rural Education Program is in the process of developing the Rural Futures Development strategy for improving problem solving capacity in rural communities and school systems. The strategy consists of a set of procedures and materials to be used by the rural schools and communities themselves, known as the School-Community Process, and another set of procedures and materials to be used by the state and regional agencies that provide support services to rural schools and communities, known as the Support Agency Process.

External consultants from the Laboratory help the support agencies improve their capacities to facilitate and support local problem solving and a team of support agency-based process facilitators, who have been trained using RFD training plans and materials, help local participants grow in their capacities to identify and solve problems.

The overall purpose, then, of the RFD strategy is to strengthen the capacity of rural schools and communities to solve problems. Problem solving capacity is viewed as having three component competencies: competence in task accomplishment, competence in working in groups, and competence in inter-group collaboration. The outcome goal of the RFD strategy is therefore growth on the part of local participants and participant groups in:

1. task accomplishment
2. group processes
3. inter-group collaboration

Its process goal is: improved capacity on the part of support agencies to foster, facilitate and support improved problem solving capacity in rural schools and communities.

## Significant Highlights or Major Focus of Activities for 1974-75.

This year marks the termination of a 3-year contract with the National Institute of Education and the signing of a final 2-year contract to complete the development of the Rural Futures Development strategy.

During the year we have been training four process facilitators in southeastern Utah who are helping representative groups of Navajo Indian people plan on-reservation educational programs for their high school age youngsters who now ride up to 160 miles a day to attend an off-reservation high school. At the same time, two state education agency specialists are being trained as PF trainers. In addition, our staff members are helping the Utah SEA plan the incorporation of RFD as a regular state agency service.

In Washington state, we are just beginning to train pairs of process facilitators in two Educational Service Districts. These PFs will work with two to four local districts in a pilot test of the RFD Strategy in that state.

In Alaska we are assisting a special task force in the SEA plan how it will assist the newly formed regional school boards in the isolated rural areas of that state.

NFIRE Membership List

October 1975

| | Dues Paid 1975 |
|---|---|
| Abt Associates Inc. (Cambridge, MA) | X |
| Berks County I.U. #14 (Reading, PA) | |
| Catskill Area School Study Council, Inc. (NY) | X |
| Ken Cook Company (Milwaukee, Wisc.) | X |
| Cooperative Education Service Agency No. 13 (Waupun, WI) | X |
| Cooperative Educational Service Agency #18 (Burlington, WI) | |
| Curriculum Improvement Center (Punta Gorda, FL) | X |
| Educational Service Unit #3 (Omaha, NB) | |
| ERIC-CRESS (Las Cruces, NM) | X |
| ESEA Title III Project, Western Kentucky U. (Bowling Green) | |
| Intermediate School District 108 (Bellingham, WA) | X |
| Littlerock School District 332 (Littlerock, WA) | |
| Manitoba Department of Education (Canada) | X |
| Marcola School District No. 79 (OR) | X |
| Marion Intermediate Education District (Salem, OR) | |
| Multnomah County I.E.D. (Portland, OR) | |
| Nevada State Dept. of Education (Carson City, NV) | X |
| New York Center for Migrant Studies (Geneseo, NY) | X |
| North Central Regional Ed. Service Agency (Morgantown, WV) | |
| North Country School Study Council (Potsdam, NY) | X |
| Northern Colorado Ed. Board of Cooperative Services (Longmont) | X |
| Northwest Oklahoma Ed. Service Center (Alva, OK) | X |
| Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (Portland, OR) | X |
| Oregon Small Schools Program (Salem, OR) | X |
| Region I Education Service Center (Edinburg, TX) | |

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|---|---|
| Region IV Education Service Center (Houston, TX) | |
| Region VII Education Service Center (Kilgore, TX) | |
| Region IX Education Service Center (Wichita Falls, TX) | |
| Region XIV Education Service Center (San Angeo, TX) | |
| Region XVI Education Service Center (Amarillo, TX) | X |
| Region XIX Education Service Center (El Paso, TX) | X |
| Regional Education Service Agency (Charleston, WV) | |
| School of Education, U. of South Dakota (Vermillion, SD) | X |
| SW & W Central Ed. Service Agency (Marshall, MN) | X |
| State Cooperative Ed. Service Agency 11 (LaCrosse, WI) | X |
| Umatilla County I.E.D. #30 (Pendleton, OR) | X |
| Utah State Board of Education Salt Lake City, UT) | |
| Watertown Unified School District (Watertown, WI) | X |
| West Texas Ed. Center -- Region XVIII (Midland, TX) | |
| Western States Small Schools Project (Carson City NV) | X |

Individual Memberships

Culver R. Dale (Western Regional Ed. Center) (Waynesville, NC)

Joan Kenney (State Board of Ed, Nevada) (Las Vegas, NV)

Ivan D. Stern (Ed. Service Unit #5, Nebraska) (Beatrice, NB)